Newsletter of the North American Mycological Association

THE MYCOPHILE

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Half-Century Foray Heads for the Continental Divide

It's time to register for the NAMA 50th Anniversary Foray! The Colorado Mycological Society is pleased to host this special Foray, to be held August 12–15, 2010.

The Foray will be held at the YMCA of the Rockies Snow Mountain Ranch, 14 miles from Winter Park, on the western slope of the Continental Divide. A number of the nation's top mycologists are confirmed to attend. Cathy Cripps and Vera Evenson will team up again to serve as co-chief mycologists.

Commons and lodge at the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch. [*Snow will not be present for the Foray.—Ed.*]

The faculty will consist of Scott Bates, Denis Benjamin MD, Michael Beug, Roy Halling, Rick Kerrigan, Michael Kuo, Brandon Matheny, Michelle Seidl, Jack States, Walt Sundberg, Rytas Vilgalys, Tom Volk, and Nancy Weber.

Michael Kuo will give a Pre-Foray Workshop entitled, "Field Mycology: Collecting and Documenting Specimens for Scientific Study." This all-day workshop will be held on Thursday, August 12. The fee is $50 per person and is limited to 20 registrants. Dr Kuo will lead a foray that will focus on collection for scientific study and a session on documentation, including description and photography, and preservation of specimens.

Snow Mountain Ranch will hold rooms for us only until June 30 and a $35 late fee starts June 30, so register now! After that, the rooms will be sold to anyone, and motel rooms in the area also fill up quickly as this is a popular tourist area. You may be able to find a room if you register later, but there are no guarantees. Flights will be hard to get also.

The cost: $150 per person for everything except room and board.

Room and board cost vary depending on what you choose and how many roommates you have. For example, three people per room (the rooms sleep six) will be $168 per person for the three nights and all meals from Thursday supper through Sunday lunch.

Camping: Our Web site has information about camping at the YMCA ($25/night), at Forest Service campgrounds and in Forest Service distributed camping areas (the only free way to camp).

The registration and waiver

Continued on page 5

Club Shines in Western PA

At first glance at the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Clubs Web site (www.wpamushroomclub.org), it looks like many other clubs. However, the club has grown from 20 in 2000 to 550 active and enthusiastic members, currently. A closer examination begins to uncover a not-too-well-guarded secret: this club is very active and has a variety of enthusiastic members!

The club meets for eight months a year (March to November) to match the mushrooming season. Each month there is a presentation that varies from identifying the variety of mushrooms, to cultivation, crafts, medicinal value crafts, cooking, and practical training in Morel hunting.

The club conducts an extensive series of Forays and Walks, over a dozen a year. Some of these are overnight Forays and often coordinate with those of other clubs. Classes are offered to beginners and "experts" alike. The club newsletter is published five times a year and is filled with information about events and upcoming activities and articles of interest.

Perhaps because Pennsylvania is such a large state, but more likely due to the widespread interest in mushrooming in the area of Western Pensylvania (Washington and Greene Counties), the club has a branch chapter in Indiana County.

The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is teaming up with the Mycological Association of Washington DC in jointly hosting a NAMA-endorsed Foray at Camp Sequenota this October. [More inside.] Keep up the good work!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here in Minnesota most residents get a severe case of cabin fever by late February, and so to help alleviate this syndrome, the Minnesota Mycological Society (MMS) created a mushroom quest that has been given the extravagant moniker "The Great Cross Country Ski/Chaga Expedition." Over the years the event has become quite popular with some of our more adventurous MMS members, and this year on the first weekend of March, a group of us once again made the trek to Northern Minnesota to search for the Chaga mushroom (*Inonotus obliquus*) in the birch forests. In addition to using the occasion as an excuse to get out and about in the woods, there is another very good reason for the winter scheduling of this foray, which is the fact that Chaga is much easier to see when there are no leaves on the trees. The black chunks of Chaga stand out conspicuously against the white birch tree bark. We had a hard-working group this year and managed to discover a sizable amount of Chaga. After the foray we continued the tradition of celebrating our success by having dinner at an upscale restaurant and later sharing the tasty and medicinal Chaga tea with our fellow Chagaphiles. I relate this episode because I know that many of us share the desire to put the long, cold winter behind us and once again enjoy the delights of spring weather with all that it promises.

At the Trustees Meeting in Louisiana last November an ad hoc marketing committee was created to examine ways to enhance the public's awareness of our organization and its activities, as well as to identify promising ways to expand NAMA membership. Without doubt there are among our membership individuals with the expertise and skills who can make important contributions to the success of this much needed task. In that connection, any members who have experience in Internet marketing, print, and/or broadcast media and who are interested in assisting in this undertaking are invited to contact David Rust, chairman of the committee, at incredulis@yahoo.com or myself at robjoful@comcast.net.

Many members are now working diligently to make the upcoming celebration of the 50th Anniversary Foray a memorable experience for the attendees. In addition to the efforts of the Colorado Mycological Society in the planning and organizing of the overall foray, others are also working on various projects that will highlight the scores of individuals who have contributed so much to the growth and development of this fine organization since its inception. It will be a walk down memory lane for our more seasoned members and a unique opportunity for our newer members to learn about and appreciate some of the more interesting and humorous happenings that have taken place at our forays over the years. If you can, please plan on participating in this much anticipated event.

—Bob Fulgency

ATTENTION NAMA MEMBERS

The Endowment Fund needs to grow to provide three scholarships to deserving mycological students. Send your contributions to

Judith McCandless
NAMA Treasurer
330 Wildwood Place,
Louisville, KY 40205

Moving?

Please send your new address, ***two weeks*** before you move, to

Ann Bornstein
NAMA Membership Secretary
61 Devon Court
Watsonville, CA 95076-1160
annstitcher@charter. net

Otherwise—you may not be getting your newsletter for a while. Each issue, several *Mycophiles* are returned as undeliverable because of no forwarding address on file. NAMA is charged ***seventy cents*** for each returned or forwarded newsletter.

NAMA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions to support the scientific and educational activities of the Association are always welcome and may be deductible as allowed by law. Gifts of any amount may be made for special occasions, such as birthdays and anniversaries, and for memorials.

Send contributions to
Judith McCandless, Treasurer
330 Wildwood Place
Louisville, KY40206-2523
judithmc@bellsouth.net

Special categories include
Friend of NAMA: $500–900
Benefactor: $1000–4900
Patron: $5000 and up

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NAMA-Endorsed Forays

In addition to NAMA's 50th Anniversary Foray at Snow Mountain, near Winter Park Colorado August 13-15, the NAMA Executive Board has endorsed three smaller-scale forays this year. ***ANY*** NAMA member may apply to attend a NAMA-Endorsed Foray.

The Great Alberta Foray:
The Leni Schalkwijk Memorial Foray
Canmore, Alberta, Canada
September 1–4

The Albert Mycological Society is hosting this year's foray, which honors one of the club's founding members who recently passed away at age 98. The Foray will be held at the YMCA Camp Chief Hector, the YMCA camp in the beautiful Kananasakis and Bow Valleys near Canmore, Alberta, just outside Banff.

The cost of the Foray is $85, and there are optional room-and-board plans. If you intend to use the dorm facilities, you are required to bring bedding or a sleeping bag. Off-site accommodations are available.

Check the Web site (www.wildmushrooms.ws) for registration and waiver forms.

Wildacres
Asheville, North Carolina
October 7–10

The Wildacres Foray near Asheville, North Carolina will be held this year October 7–10. Dr. Brandon Matheny, University of Tennessee, will serve as the lead Mycologist; Dr. Walt Sundberg will serve as the Recorder; and Dr. Patrick Leacock will serve as an identifier. The Wildacres Foray is limited to 40 NAMA members and is conducted in a relaxed learn-and-socialize manner. The cost is $215 per person, double occupancy.

Contact Glenna O'Neal to register: gkoneal_mrshc@yahoo.com or or 423-246-1882.

Camp Sequanota Joint Foray
Jannerstown, Pennsylvania
October 8–10

The annual Camp Sequantoa Foray weekend of the Mycological Association of Washington, DC is being held jointly with the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club. The Foray will be held October 8–10. Guest mycologists will be John Plishke III and Noah Siegel.

Camp Sequanota is located near Jennerstown in the Laurel Highlands of western Pennsylvania. The Camp has very comfortable, mostly two-bed rooms in the Bowesox Enrichment Center and will accommodate 40–45 participants.

The cost of the foray is $135 per person, double occupancy; a single room is $174.50. Cost of children three to ten years old who are occupying a room with their parents is $46.50 per child. Individuals attending only Saturday's events will pay only $48.25.

Registration and waiver forms can be found on the Web sites of both club: (www.mawdc.org and www.wpamushroomclub.org) or obtained by contacting Connie Durnan at czdurnan@msn.com or (202) 362-1420.

Eagle Hill Seminars

Mushrooms & Other Fungi
August 8–14

Lichens: Lichen Ecology
August 15–21

Crustose Lichens: Identification Using Morphology, Anatomy, & Simple Chemistry
August 22–28

Toxic & Look-Alike Mushrooms & Management of Mushroom Toxicity
September 14–8

Contact www.eaglehill.us for further information and application.

NOTICES

The **2010 NAMA Photo Contest** has opened and will accept entries in digital format until August 1.
The rules and the application form are available on the NAMA website (namyco.org). For further information you may contact John Plischke III at fungi01@aol.com

The **NAMA Directory/Roster** is available online. Please contact the Ann Bornstein, Membership Secretary at annsticher@charter.net to request a copy.

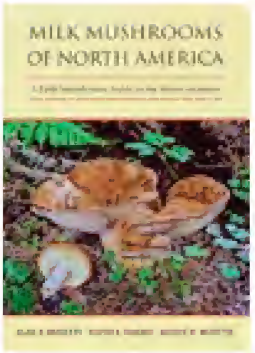
***Milk Mushrooms of North America: A Field Identification Guide to the Genus* Lactarius,** by Alan E. Bessette, David B. Harris, and Arleen R. Bessette. 2009; Syracuse University Press (www.SyracuseUniversityPress.syr.edu)/ ISBN 0-8156-3229-0. 299 pages; $110.00 (Hardcover; no softcover available)

I suspect that most NAMA members have used, or at least seen, one or more of the fine mushroom books produced by Alan and Arleen Bessette, such as *North American Boletes, Mushrooms of Northeastern North America, Mushrooms of the Southeastern United States, Mushrooms of Cape Cod and the National Seashore,* and *Edible Wild Mushrooms of North America.* Although most of these books have unique characteristics, they share several features, such as inclusion of one or more co-authors, top-notch color photographs, fairly concise descriptions written without a lot of technical jargon, and simple, easy-to-navigate keys to the included species. Thus, it is not surprising that the long-awaited newest member of the Bessette stable is quite similar to their earlier efforts, particularly *North American Boletes*.

As in most Bessette books, the front matter and introductory sections are fairly brief. Here they include a definition of the genus *Lactarius,* principal features used to classify and identify species within the genus, ecology (all species are thought to be ectomycorrhizal), edibility (not many species are high on the lists of many mycophagists), notes concerning the descriptions, key field characters that should be noted when you collect lactariuses, and some hints for using the keys. All of this is covered in a mere 10 pages. Back sections include a glossary, list of references, separate indexes to scientific and common names, and list of photo credits.

As usual the bulk of the book is devoted to the mushroom species descriptions. They are arranged alphabetically by species epithet, rather than taxonomically. I waffle between preferring one versus the other, so I can easily live with this approach; but still I see value in organizing by subgenus and then alphabetizing within those groups; that way similar species that one is trying to decide among would appear closer together for easier comparison. Lacking that, it would have been helpful for the descriptions to include the subgenus and section, at least as they are currently classified. On the other hand, as the infrageneric classification will change in response to the growing body of molecular phylogenetic studies, the straight alphabetical approach may well be the better one for avoiding becoming dated. See, I waffle.

Most of the species are typical lactariuses with stipe, cap, and normal gills, but a small selection of related secotioid, hypogeous, and polypore species is included, plus two common parasites on lactariuses—*Hypomyces lactifluorum* (which produces the lobster mushroom) and



Asterophora lycoperdoides. Each description includes the authority and source of original description and information on cap; gills; stalk; flesh; latex; spore-color; microscopic characters such as structure of the cuticle and spore size, shape, and ornamentation; geographic, seasonal, and habitat occurrence; and edibility. Each ends with a usually brief comments section. The descriptions are fairly short and written in accessible language. My only complaint about them is that most of the comments sections are too short. I feel this is the most important part of the description as this is where the authors can focus your attention on the most similar species and the characters you need to observe to tell this species from its look-alikes. It's also a place to provide miscellaneous tidbits of interesting information such as why *Lactarius volemus* mushrooms are known as Bradleys in some parts of the country (that particular information is given in the introductory section on edibility, however).

For the most part, the species included are those treated in Hesler and Smith's 1979 monograph, *North American Species of Lactarius*, augmented by Andy Methven's treatment for California (*Agaricales of California*, Volume 10), and the descriptions are largely based on those works. Some species considered doubtful by Hesler and Smith are not included and many of the rare or dubious (in my mind, at least) species are described, but images of them could not be found. Unfortunately, the book does not include much of the information that has come out of recent molecular studies such as the apparent lack of a clear separation between *Lactarius* and *Russula* and the possibility that the mushrooms we have been calling *L. deliciosus* in North America probably represent a number of different, currently un-named, species that don't include the "real" thing. In part this is because the authors' manuscript was submitted years ago, and the publisher took an unusually long time to publish the book.

The written descriptions are supported by excellent-quality color photographs from the authors and 21 other individuals. One hundred fifty-one of the 220 species and varieties of *Lactarius* treated in the book are illustrated, an admirable 71 of them by more than one photo to show variability within the species. The photos are of generous size (about 7 x 11 cm or 2¾ x 4½ inches) which greatly increases their utility for identification purposes. All of them are grouped together, arranged alphabetically, and placed after the keys and before the written descriptions. For me, the photos are by far the most valuable part of the book.

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REGISTRATION FORM

North American Mycological Association 50th Anniversary Foray

Hosted by the Colorado Mycological Society at the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch

Thursday, Aug. 12–Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010

Deadline for early registration June 30, 2010 ($35 late fee after June 30)
(Reserved rooms at Snow Mountain Ranch expire June 30)

Name (to go on name tag): _____ E-mail #1: _____

Name (to go on name tag): _____ E-mail #2: _____

Address (Street, apt): _____ Home phone: _____

City, State/Prov, Zip: _____ Cell phone: _____

Club affiliation (if any): _____

Event	Dates	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
Conference (see below for room & board)	Thurs. Aug. 12–Sun., Aug. 15		$150.00	$ _____
Late fee	Registering after June 30		$35.00	$ _____
	Have you been offered a waver? # ☐		–$150.00	$ _____
Pre-conference Workshop*	Thurs., Aug. 12, 9 a.m..–4 p.m.		$50.00	$ _____
NAMA Trustee Meeting**	Wed., Aug. 11, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. # attending ☐			
NAMA Membership***	Affiliated club		$32.00	$ _____
	Non-affiliated club		$35.00	$ _____
T-shirt	Quantity: S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐		$15.00	$ _____
			Subtotal	**$** _____

* Michael Kuo: Field Mycology. Limit 20.
** No cost, but sign up for extra lodging.
***You must be a NAMA or CMS member to attend. One membership per family

Room & Board (multiply per person rate by no. of people (Rate from 1a below; pay here only if we assign roommates)

Grand total **$** _____

Mycology student – Fill in University, faculty supervisor, phone number here; subtract $100 from Grand Total on check. _____

Lodging and Food Choices–for details, go to www.cmsweb.org/NAMA2010.htm

1. Room and Board at Snow Mountain Ranch: Pay using this form if we match you with roommates. Pay on the YMCA site if you pick your roommates. Room arrangement: 6 beds (2 queens & 1bunk set or 1 queen and 2 bunk sets). Nonsmoking.

a. We match you with roommates: 3/room. Pay using this form. ☐ Male room ☐ Female room ☐ Couple + single

Rates **per person** - room and food for entire stay (Food: first eve thru Sunday lunch)

☐ Tuesday–Sunday (attending Wednesday trustee meeting) $280
☐ Wednesday–Sunday (attending Thursday Kuo seminar) $225
☐ **Thursday–Sunday (main conference Thurs.–Sun.)** $168

Continued on next page

Room and board options, continued from page 5

b. You find your own roommates–1 to 6 to a room. You reserve and pay on the YMCA website.
Save money by collecting roommates!
YMCA rates and instructions on the YMCA website: www.cmsweb.org/NAMA2010.htm#YMCA (you need the passrword)
Cost range PER PERSON for room and board for the 32-day conference: $132 (6 in a room) to $315 (1 in room)

c. Campsites are also available. Go to our website.

2. Find your own lodging. Visit www.cmsweb.org/NAMA2010.htm for choices.

Cancellation policy: If you need to cancel your plans to attend the Foray, we will refund all but $40 of the $150 if you cancel before August 1st. From August 2nd through August 10th, we will refund half your fees. Lodging cancellation must be handled through Snow Mountain Ranch (or your outside lodging choice).
Make checks payable to ***CMS/NAMA 2010***. Mail to ***CMS/NAMA 2010, P.O. Box 9621, Denver, CO 80209.***
Questions: E-mail NAMA50th@gmail.com or call Linda deLeon at (303) 748-5380 or Linnea Gillman at (303) 935-2390.

VOLUNTEER OPTIONS

If you can help in any way, please let us know. The volunteer time of our members is what continues to make NAMA forays such a success and great time for everyone. The coordinator will contact you with details prior to the foray.

Display & identification area: ❑ Set up ❑ Assist identifiers; move specimens to display tables ❑ Clean up

Mycophagy—Saturday: ❑ Set up ❑ Preparation – clean mushrooms and/or cook ❑ Clean up

Presentations: ❑ Assist with room or audio/visual set up

❑ I have a digital projector I could bring for back-up (we'll contact you about this).

Misc. _____

❑ I will bring the following items for the silent auction (NAMA benefit):

❑ *Vendors:* I would like to sell the following at the foray:

Transportation from airport to Snow Mountain Ranch We are looking at shuttle services and carpooling. Please offer to share if you can. Info at www.cmsweb.org/NAMA2010.htm

❑ I would like a ride

❑ I have room for rider(s) Contact me at (email or phone)

Comments: _____

Special meal requests at Snow Mountain Ranch (allergies, etc.) _____

NAMA's 50th Anniversary Foray August 12–15, 2010
LIABILITY RELEASE AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE

I understand there is some risk in participating in a mushroom foray and conference: all those risks one assumes by being away from home, risks associated with moving about in fields and woods, risks involved in eating wild mushrooms, risks of losing personal property by theft or misplacement, and all other expected and unexpected risks. In registering for or attending this foray, I agree to assume total responsibility during this event for my own safety and well-being, and that of any minor children under my care, and for the protection of my and their personal property. I release the North American Mycological Association (NAMA), and Colorado Mycological Association (CMS), their trustees, officers, employees, contractors, and all other persons assisting in the planning and presentation of this event from liability for any sickness, injury, or loss I or any minor children under my care may suffer during this event or as a result of attending and participating. I further promise not to file a lawsuit or make a claim against any of the persons listed above, even if they negligently cause me or my minor children injury or loss.

Finally, I agree to hold NAMA and CMS harmless from any liability they may incur as a result of any damages to any property I may cause. This release and promise is part of the consideration I give in order to attend this event. I understand it affects my legal rights. I intend it to apply not only to me but to anyone who may have the right to make a claim on my behalf.

Signature 1: _____ Date: _____

Print Name 1: _____

Signature 2: _____ Date: _____

Print Name 2: _____

We must have a signature for each person attending the foray.

Books Reviewed, continued from page 4

The keys are very similar to those in earlier Bessette books. As in *North American Boletes,* they are divided into Eastern and Western groups, with the Rocky Mountains serving as the line of division. Each geographic set is then divided into four "field groups." Most of the couplets address only one or two characters, such as cap color, cap zonation, latex color, latex taste, and type of associated tree. Although I haven't made much use of the keys in previous Bessette volumes, usually I have been successful on those occasions when I did use them. However, another mycologist I know simply hates the Bessettes' keys. Perhaps the problem stems from the trade-off that is inevitable when trying to produce relatively simple keys that most folks won't find overwhelming. The simpler a key is, the more likely it is that it won't always work well. Conversely, a key designed to work in most instances will of necessity be more complex and possibly intimidating. I think these keys strike a good balance between the two approaches. Just be forewarned that, because they are fairly simple, they won't always work.

Small quibbles notwithstanding, this is a fine book that makes a valuable contribution to the mycological literature of North America, and it should be welcomed by mushroom-hunters throughout the continent and beyond. Welcomed, that is, IF they can afford it. Those large photos come at a price: $110—ouch! It's a real shame that Syracuse University Press chose to print the book only in hard cover. Although profit models may suggest that was the best approach for the Press, it certainly doesn't help to get the book into the hands of a large number of mushroomers. If you can afford it, get it. If not, start saving, you won't regret it.

—Steve Trudell, Seattle, Washington

IN MEMORIAM

Alan Grindberg
May 6, 1932–January 11, 2010

Alan was one of the founders of North Dakota's amateur mycological organization, the FunGis. Although the FunGis is no longer and active club, his inspiration lives on in the hearts of many in the community.

Larry Stickney
March 9, 1926–June 12, 2010

Larry was four-time President of the Mycological Society of San Francisco and also served as newsletter editor. Larry was also a supporter of the Bay Area Mycological Society. He was an inspirational fixture at NAMA Forays and local fungal fairs.

RECIPE CORNER

A less oily alternative to pan-frying mushrooms . . .

I recently tried out a different way to sauté mushrooms with less oil and less of an oily taste.

- Place olive oil in a skillet with an ovenproof handle.
- Place it in the oven and heat to 450° F; the oil should sizzle.
- Remove the skillet from the oven and toss mushrooms (cut into ¼ " slices).
- Return to the oven for a few minutes.
- Remove from the oven and toss the mushrooms again.
- Return to the oven and cook the mushrooms until tender.

Total cooking time: 6–12 minutes. *Thanks to Elizabeth Schneider for the idea.*

We are looking for simple and fun recipes for future issues. We will eventually aim for a full six- to eight-course meal! We will start with appetizer and move on the salad. Submit your recipes to both the Chair of the Mycophagy Committee and myself (ursulap@embarqmail.com and bruce_eberle@msn.com). We will select a "winner" each issue. Not sure what the winner will receive other than the recognition, bragging rights. and the thanks of other cooks.

Contributions Needed

NAMA needs your memories of past Forays and any pictures you are willing to share. Send them to

Michael Beug
P.O. Box 116
Husum, WA 98623

or e-mail to beugm@evergreen.edu.

Colorado Foray, continued from page 1

form and all the prices are also on our Web site: www.cmsweb.org/NAMA2010.htm.

For family members who may not share your enthusiasm for mushrooms and other fungi, there are numerous activities in the area: There is the nearby Zepher Scenic Lift, an Alpine Slide, mini golf and outdoor climbing wall. The town of Winter Park is the western entrance to the Rocky Mountain National Park.

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c/o Ann Bornstein
61 Devon Court
Watsonville, CA 95067

Address Service Requested

Newsletter of the North American Mycological Association
THE MYCOPHILE

Photos by Peggy Horman, Long Island Mycological Club

MUSHROOM OF THE MONTH

Charles Darwin collected this Ascomycota for scientific study in 1832 while in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, during the voyage of the HMS Beagle. Darwin noted that the fungus grew in vast numbers on the local beech trees (*Nothofagus* spp) and that the locals ate the fungus. The specimen was provided to Rev. Miles J. Berkeley of Kew Gardens who named the fungus in Darwin's honor in 1842.

Cyttaria darwinii is an orange-yellowish spherical fruit body which develops a pitted surface upon maturity. *C darwinii* appears to be geographically restricted to South America. It is considered to be parasitic on southern beeches, but it has been suggested that there is the possibility of mutualism.

Darwin's "golf balls" are preserved at the Kew Mycological Herbarium in Britain.

Thanks to H. Doring and B. Spooner.
Additional information is available at www.kew.org.

TOP: *C. darwinii* in various stages of growth
BOTTOM: *In situ* Southern Beech